

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 and 16-17 are pending in this application. Claims 11-15 and 18-22 are cancelled as being directed to withdrawn claims and claim 16 is amended to more clearly and distinctly recite the Applicants' subject matter. No new matter is added.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-10 are allowed. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of pending claims 1-10 and 16-17 contain allowable subject matter.

Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 O.K. §103(a) over Owen (U.S. Patent No. 4,255,734). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent 16 recites an insulator plate for a switch matrix, comprising a circular plate having four equally spaced tabs projecting outward from the rim of the plate and a plurality of ports provided there through and having a first and a second set of finger contacts mounted on opposing sides and electrically connected through said plate, a corona shield provided around said first and second set of finger contacts a rotary bearing disposed within said plate, and wherein said plate is composed of an insulating material.

Owen describes a transformer with tapped side windings using a rotary switches 26 and 28. See FIG. 1 and 7, for example. The dual tandem rotary switches 26 and 28 are secured to a terminal plate 162 by means of an angle bracket 164. The terminal plate 162 is made of a suitable material of electrically insulating properties. A plurality of contacts or terminals are secured at space circumferential intervals in circular array around the terminal plate 162. Each of the terminals is in the form of a threaded bolt extended through the contact plate 162. See col.

16, lines 29-45, for example. A rotary wiper arm plate B is constructed of copper or other suitable electrically conducted material and is key to the shaft 170 for rotation therewith. See col. 16, lines 60-67, for example. By rotation of the rotary wiper arms, movement across a bolt heads constituting parts of the terminals 110-118 is performed about the terminal plate 162.

It is noted that the terminal plate 162 is not circular in shape. It is also noted that there are not four equally spaced tabs. It is also noted that there are not a first and second set of finger contacts mounted on opposing sides or a corona shield, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 16. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Owen does not disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants' claimed invention.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify the contact plate 162 to render obvious the Applicants' invention. Specifically, since Owen is directed to a transformer with tapped subwindings using a special tandem switch to selectively interconnect between tapped sections within winding pairs, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Owen as suggested by the Office Action. In fact, Owen contains no suggestion or teaching that would provide a basis for such a modification. Rather, Applicants respectfully submit that any such motivation is only found in the Applicants' application. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is impermissibly engaging in hind site reconstruction, using teachings from the Applicants' specification to find motivation to pick and choose among the reference(s). Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

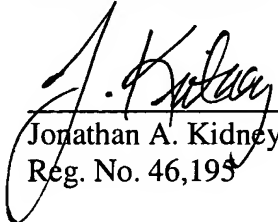
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1556 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action.

In the event this paper is not time filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87326.5060.

Respectfully submitted,

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